EPI Update for Friday, January 13, 2012 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Norovirus toolkit for healthcare settings
- Binge drinking
- Healthcare worker safety linked to patient safety
- HPV-related educational resources
- Correction to last week's article on new TB test
- HPV4 vaccine article correction
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Norovirus toolkit for healthcare settings

CDC has developed an additional tool to prevent the spread of norovirus infections in healthcare settings. The toolkit includes infection control recommendations for healthcare facilities, posters, factsheets, investigation worksheets, and sample communication frameworks.

This tool was developed to complement the CDC and HICPAC Guideline for the Prevention and Control of Norovirus Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Healthcare Settings, 2011 (available at www.cdc.gov/hicpac/norovirus/002 norovirus-toc.html) and CDC's Updated Norovirus Outbreak Management and Disease Prevention Guidelines for the wider community (available at

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6003a1.htm?s cid=rr6003a1 e).

To access the toolkit, visit: www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pubs.html#a4.

Binge drinking

New estimates show that binge drinking is a bigger problem than previously thought; new data show those who were thought less likely to binge drink actually engage in this behavior more often and consume more drinks when they do.

While binge drinking is more common among young adults aged 18 to 34 years, binge drinkers aged 65 years and older report binge drinking more often—an average of five to six times a month. Similarly, while binge drinking is more common among those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more, the largest number of drinks consumed on an occasion is significantly higher among binge drinkers with household incomes less than \$25,000—an average of eight to nine drinks per occasion, which is far beyond the amount thought to induce intoxication.

lowa ranks among the highest in the nation for both the percentage of adults who binge drink and the number of drinks consumed by binge drinkers. An estimated 19 to 26 percent of lowa adults engage in binge drinking with an average of eight drinks consumed during an episode of binge drinking.

To view the estimates visit www.cdc.gov/VitalSigns/BingeDrinking/.

For more information visit

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6101a4.htm?s_cid=mm6101a4_w.

Healthcare worker safety linked to patient safety

Do you ever work more than eight hours a day? How about 12 hour shifts? Double shifts? Swing shifts? Ever felt tired, irritable, indifferent, confused? How about memory lapses, problems communicating, trouble problem-solving? Have you made a mistake on the job? You may be suffering from fatigue related to your work schedule.

The link between healthcare worker fatigue and adverse events is well-documented, with a substantial number of studies indicating the practice of extended work hours contributes to high levels of worker fatigue, reduced productivity, and negative impacts to patient and worker safety.

If you are concerned about the effects of fatigue on your own performance or that of your co-workers, take the time to review the Sentinel Event Alert recently published by the Joint Commission (www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/SEA_48.pdf). The-four page alert includes brief findings defining the problem and nine evidence-based action suggestions for healthcare workers and organizations.

For more information on healthcare worker concerns, contact:
Erin Drinnin (Iowa Health Workforce) 515-281-3166 or erin.drinnin@idph.iowa.gov
Gloria Vermie (Rural Health & Primary Care) 515-281-7224
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Kathy Leinenkugel (Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance) 515-281-4930 or kathy.leinenkugel@idph.iowa.gov

HPV-related educational resources

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. To commemorate this health observance, the Immunization Action Coalition has compiled a series of educational resources addressing HPV and HPV vaccination. The series includes personal testimonies and educational information from expert commentators such as Dr. Paul Offit. To access these resources to use with your patients, visit: www.immunize.org/votw/hpv-videos.asp.

Correction to last week's article on new TB test

Last week's article on the State Hygienic Laboratory's (SHL) new TB nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) incorrectly stated that "This new PCR assay detects both the presence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex DNA and Rifampicin resistance directly from clinical respiratory specimens and from specimen sediment." This test is not validated on the primary clinical specimen; it must be performed on sediment obtained from the traditional digestion/decontamination of the clinical specimen.

Healthcare providers can order this test on any sputum, bronchial alveolar lavage or transtracheal aspirate. If the digestion/decontamination process is performed at a local clinical lab, the sediment alone should be sent to SHL for the TB NAAT. If the primary specimen is sent, SHL will perform the test on the sediment obtained from our digestion/decontamination process.

HPV4 vaccine article correction

In last week's EPI Update, the title of the article on HPV4 vaccine recommendations was misspelled and should have stated: CDC recommendations for use of HPV4 in males.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Have a healthy and happy week! Stay warm now that winter has really arrived! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology Iowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736